Job placement for land owners in Koodankulam Power Project

2052. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families whose lands have been acquired 'so far' for setting up Koodankulam Atomic Power Project in Thirunelveli district of Tamilnadu;

(b) how many applications have been received, so far, from land owners seeking job opportunity in the Plant;

(c) how many persons have been provided job from among the land owners, so far; and

(d) will Government provide jobs to all the land owners, whose lands have been acquired/ earmarked in order to provide them livelihood by relaxing standards, if necessary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARARAJE): (a) Land belonging to 3325 families has been acquired so far for the Koodankulam Project.

(b) No applications have been invited for employment from Land Affected Persons. However, some requests have been received from the local public.

(c) None. The implementation of the Project has not yet started.

(d) The livelihood of the land owners has not been affected, as the land acquired so far for the proposed Koodankulam Project and its colony is non-agricultural dry land. However, when the project construction is taken up, if the local people are found eligible, they could be given preference while filling certain posts in categories C&D as per the norms.

Special Safety measures for Koodankulam Power Project

2053. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in the Koodankulam Atomic Power Project, being setup in Tamil Nadu with Russian aid;

(b) whether the proposed project has been certified by Scientists as cent percent safe;

(c) whether Government are taking special safety measures to see that the habitations around the atomic station are not affected by radiation etc; and

(d) if so, what safety measures will be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The "Supplement to the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) of 1988" for setting up of 2 X 1000 MWe Light Water Reactors in Tamil Nadu was signed by the Indian and Russian Governments on 21.6.98. Subsequently, the DPR Contract for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Koodankulam project was signed on 20.7.98.

(b) The Regulatory Authority i.e. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has thoroughly reviewed and endorsed the technical specifications for the Project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In accordance with the requirements of setting up of Nuclear Power Plants, no habitation is permitted within an area of 2.0 kms radius around the proposed Koodankulam plant location which is known as the 'Exclusion zone'. This area is acquired by the nuclear power project authorities to exercise full control by constructing a boundary wall so as to isolate the outside population from the exclusion zone. This is a measure of safety giving an additional barrier between the containment of the reactor and the public domain. Moreover, a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan for plant emergency as well as the offside emergency is already in existance for all the atomic power plants.

Procurement of light water reactors

2054. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to procure light water reactors from foreign countries to achieve the targeted Nuclear Power generation;

(b) if so, the details of the countries from